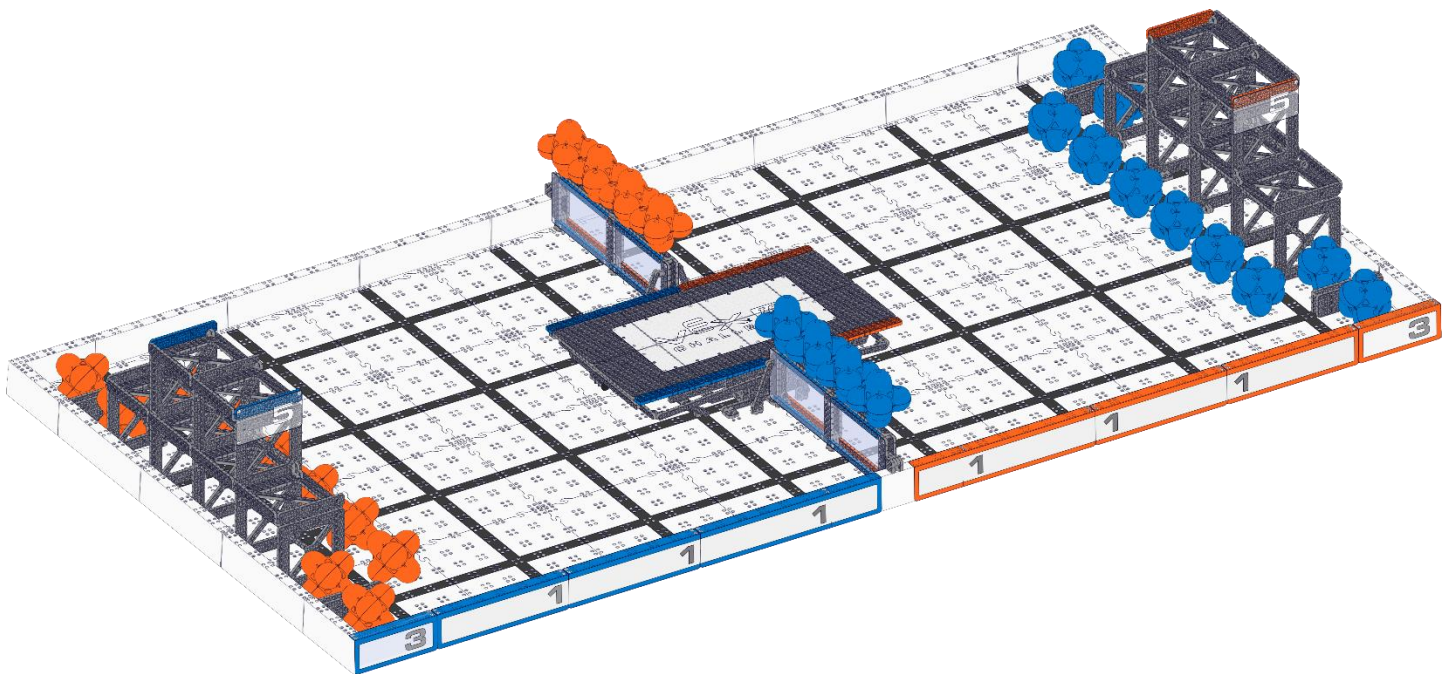


VEX[®] IQ
CHALLENGE
CROSSOVER

Game Manual



VEX IQ Challenge Crossover – Game Manual



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Game Description

In the Teamwork Challenge, an *Alliance* of two (2) *Robots* operating under driver control, work together in each *Match*.

In the Robot Skills Challenge, one (1) *Robot* takes the field to score as many points as possible. under driver control. These matches consist of *Driver Skills Matches*, which will be entirely driver controlled, and *Programing Skills Matches*, which will be autonomous with limited human interaction.

The object of the game is to attain the highest score by *Scoring Hexballs* in their colored *Scoring Zone* and *Goals*, and by *Parking* and *Balancing Robots* on the *Bridge*.

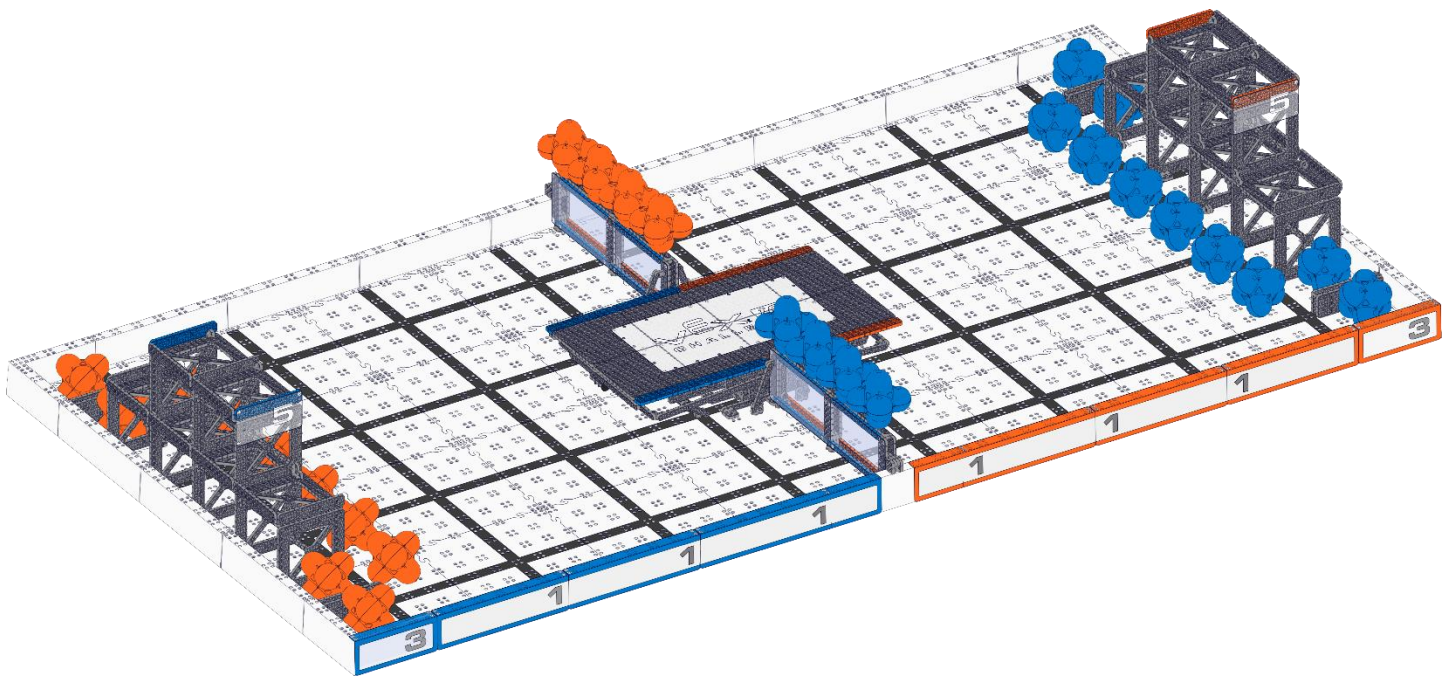


Figure 1 – Isometric Drawing of the Field

There are a total of twenty-eight (28) *Hexballs* available as scoring objects in the game. There are two (2) *Scoring Zones*, sixteen (16) *Low Goals*, twelve (12) *Elevated Goals*, and one (1) *Bridge* on the field.

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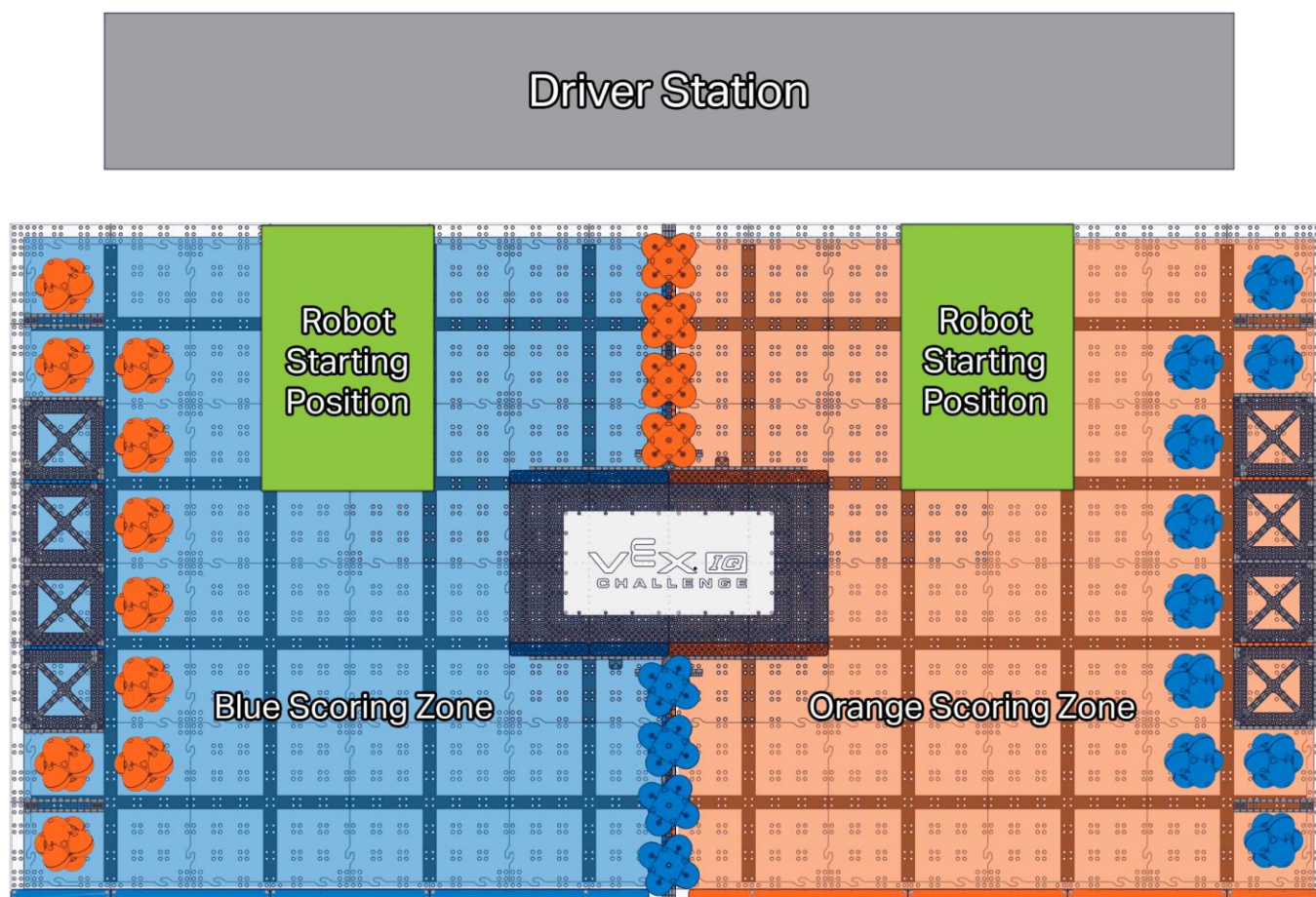


Figure 2 – Overhead drawing of the Field. The Starting Positions, Scoring Zones, and Driver Station are highlighted.

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Game Definitions

Alliance – A pre-assigned grouping of two (2) *Teams* that work together in a given *Teamwork Match*.

Alliance Score – Points scored in a *Teamwork Match* awarded to both *Teams*.

Autonomous – A *Robot* that is operating on its own, without any input from a VEX IQ Controller

Balanced – A *Bridge* is *Balanced* if neither end of the *Bridge* is touching the *Floor* or is supported by a *Hexball*.

Bridge – The 14" x 24" structure of VEX IQ plates that sits 3.25" high off the ground when level. The *Bridge* is mounted on a double hinge that allows the *Bridge* to tip towards either end of the field. *Teams* may elect to start the *Bridge* tipped in either direction or to leave it *Balanced*. If the *Teams* don't make a decision, it will start the *Match* *Balanced*.

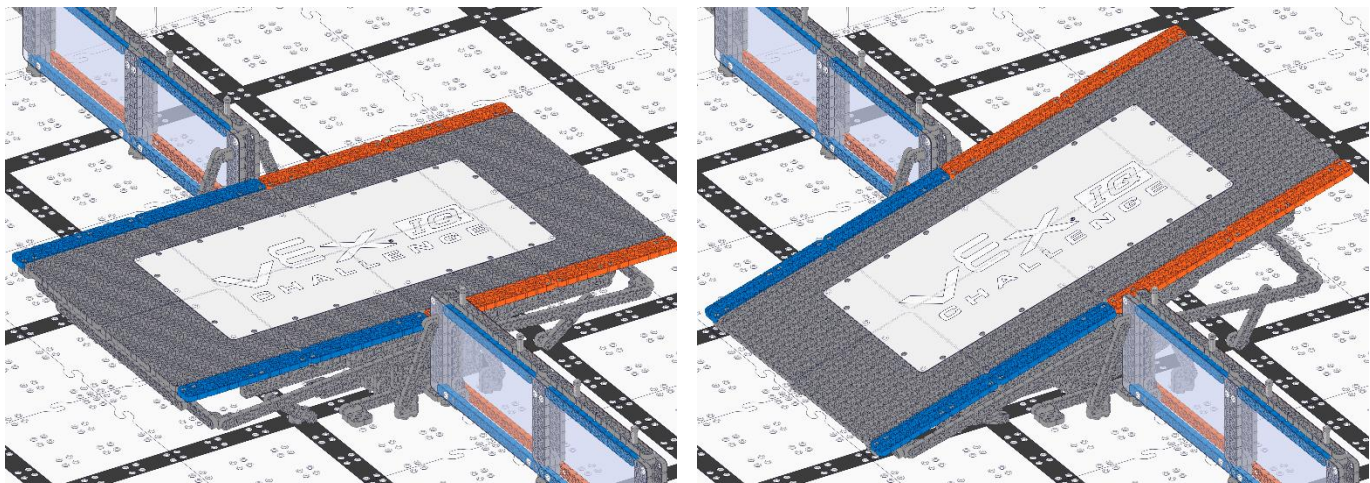


Figure 3 & 4 – A *Balanced* and *Unbalanced Bridge*

Disqualification – A penalty applied to a *Team* for a rules violation. A team that is *Disqualified* in a *Teamwork Match* receives zero (0) points. At the head referee's discretion, repeated violations and *Disqualifications* for a single team may lead to its *Disqualification* for the entire event.

Driver – A *Student* team member responsible for operating and controlling the *Robot*.

Driver Skills Match – A *Driver Skills Match* consists of a sixty (60) second *Driver Controlled Period* and only one (1) *Robot*.

Driver Station – The region behind the *Field*, where the *Drivers* must remain during their *Match*, unless legally interacting with their *Robot*.

Elementary School Student - A *Student* enrolled in grade 5 or lower or enrolled in grade 6 in a school, which includes grade 5, but not grade 7 (e.g., K-6, 2-6, 3-6, 4-6, 5-6).

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Elevated Goal – One (1) of the twelve (12), 6” wide, 6” deep volumes bounded by VEX IQ plates, where teams can *Score HexBalls*. Four (4) of the *Elevated Goals* are additionally bounded at the top by VEX IQ plates and have a height of 6.25”.

Fence – The 6” high pipe structure that marks the edge of the two *Scoring Zones*.

Field Element – The field perimeter, *Hexballs*, *Fence*, *Goals*, *Bridge*, and any supporting structures.

Floor – The part of the playing field that is within the outer walls.

Goal – A *Low Goal* or an *Elevated Goal*.

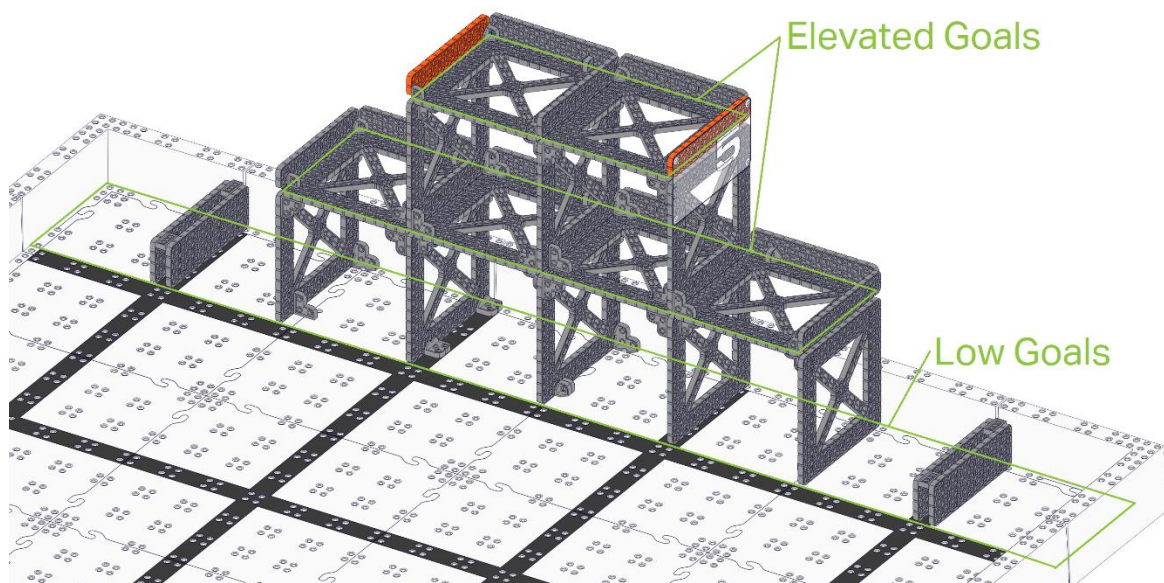


Figure 5 – Low and Elevated Goals

Hexball – An orange or blue plastic scoring object consisting of six (6) bumps extending from a common center, with an overall diameter of approximately 5”. Each *Hexball* weighs approximately 0.19 lbs.

Low Goal – One (1) of the sixteen (16), 5-6” wide, 6” deep volumes bounded by VEX IQ plates, field walls, and the *Floor*, where teams can *Score Hexballs*. Eight (8) of the *Low Goals* are additionally bounded at the top by VEX IQ plates and have a height of 6.25”.

Middle School Student – Any eligible *Student* that is not an *Elementary School Student*.

Parked – A *Robot* is *Parked* if it is touching the *Bridge* and not touching the *Floor* at the end of the *Match*.



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Programming Skills Match – A *Programming Skills Match* consists of a sixty (60) second *Autonomous Period*, and only one (1) *Robot*.

Robot – Anything that has passed inspection that a team places on the field prior to the start of a *Match*.

Scored – A *Hexball* is *Scored* if it is not touching a *Robot* and meets one of the following criteria.

1. The *Hexball* is contacting the *Floor* within the *Scoring Zone* of the same color.
2. The *Hexball* is partially within the three dimensional volume of the *Goal* of the same color.

Note 1: If a *Hexball* is *Scored* both in the *Scoring Zone* and a *Goal*, it will only count as *Scored* in the *Goal*. (i.e. A *Hexball* cannot earn points in both the *Scoring Zone* and a *Goal*)

Note 2: No more than one (1) *Hexball* will be considered *Scored* in each *Goal*. (i.e. You cannot earn points for multiple *Hexballs* in a single *Goal*)

Note 3: If a *Hexball* is *Scored* in multiple *Goals*, it will only count as *Scored* in the highest point value *Goal* it is *Scored* in. (i.e. A *Hexball* cannot earn points in more than one *Goal*)

Scoring Zone – The sections of the *Floor* bounded by the inner edge of the *Fence* and the inner edges of the field walls. The *Fence* and the *Bridge* are not considered to be in either *Scoring Zone*

Skills Match – A *Driver Skills Match* or *Programming Skills Match*

Starting Positions – The two designated 13" x 20" spots on the field, where *Robots* must start the match. Starting Positions are bounded by the outer edges of the black lines and the top most outer edge of the field wall.

Student – Anyone born after April 30, 2003 (age 13 or lower) or enrolled in grade 8 or lower on April 30, 2017. Anyone enrolled in grade 9 on April 30, 2017 is **only** eligible to participate on a VEX IQ Challenge team when enrolled in a middle school or district, which includes grade 8, but not grade 10. *Students* are the individuals who design, build, repair, and program the *Robot*, with minimal adult assistance

Team – Two or more *Students* make up a team. A team is classified as an *Elementary School Team* if all of the members are *Elementary School Students*. A *Team* is classified as *Middle School* if any of its members are *Middle School Students*. *Teams* may be associated with schools, community/youth organizations, or a group of neighborhood *Students*.

Teamwork Match – A *Teamwork Match* consists of a *Driver Controlled Period* for a total time of sixty seconds (1:00), with one (1) *Alliance*.

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VEX IQ Challenge Crossover Game Rules

Scoring

- A *Hexball Scored* in the *Scoring Zone* of the same color is worth one (1) point.
- A *Hexball Scored* in a *Low Goal* of the same color is worth three (3) points.
- A *Hexball Scored* in an *Elevated Goal* of the same color is worth five (5) points.
- One *Robot Parked* on the *Bridge* is worth five (5) points.
- Two *Robots Parked* on the *Bridge* is worth fifteen (15) points.
- All *Robots Parked* on a *Balanced Bridge* is worth twenty-five (25) points.
 - In a *Teamwork Match* “All Robots” means both *Robots* on the *Alliance*
 - In a *Robot or Programming Skills Match* “All Robots” means the one *Robot* in the *Match*

Safety Rules

<S1> If, at any time, the *Robot* operation or team actions are deemed unsafe or have damaged the *Field Elements* or *Hexballs*, by the determination of the referees, the offending team may be *Disqualified*. The *Robot* will require re-inspection before it may again take the field.

- Special attention will be paid to any damage caused to the *Hexballs*. It is imperative that teams design their *Robots* such that they do not permanently damage the *Hexballs*.

General Game Rules

<G1> When reading and applying the various rules in this document, please remember that common sense always applies in the VEX IQ Challenge.

<G2> At the beginning of a *Match*, each *Robot* must:

- Only be contacting the *Floor*.
- Fit within a 13” x 20” area, bounded by the *Starting Position*.
- Be no taller than 15”

An offending *Robot* will be removed from the match at the Head Referee's discretion.

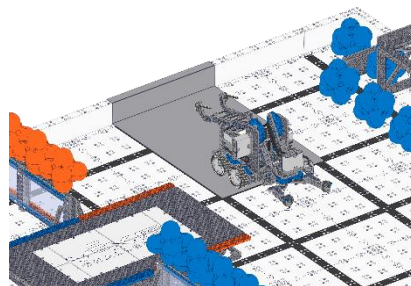
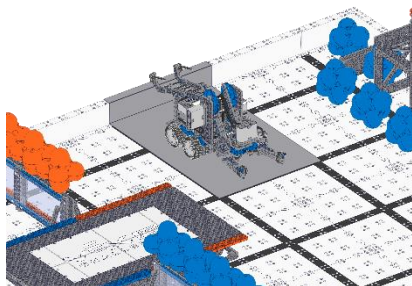


Figure 6 – Example of a Legal Starting Position **Figure 7** – Example of a Illegal Starting Position per <G2b>



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<G3> During the *Match*, *Robots* may not expand beyond the 13"x20" area they were limited to at the start of the *Match*. However, *Robots* are permitted to expand beyond the 15" height restriction they were limited to at the start of the *Match*. Violations of this rule will result in a warning for minor offenses that do not affect the match. Egregious (score affecting) offenses will result in a *Disqualification*. Teams who receive multiple warnings may also receive a *Disqualification*, at the head referee's discretion.

<G4> Each team shall include two *Drivers*. Teams with only one *Student* in attendance at an event are granted an allowance to use a qualified *Driver* from the event. No *Driver* may fulfill this role for more than one team at any given event.

During a *Match*, *Robots* may only be operated by the *Drivers*. No *Driver* shall operate a *Robot* for more than thirty-five (35) seconds. The two drivers must switch their controller between :25 and :35 remaining in the *Match*. The second *Driver* may not touch his/her team's controls until the controller is passed to him/her. Once the controller is passed, the first *Driver* may no longer touch his/her team's controls. Violations of this rule will result in a warning for minor offenses that do not affect the match. Egregious (score affecting) offenses will result in a *Disqualification*. Teams who receive multiple warnings may also receive a *Disqualification*, at the head referee's discretion.

<G5> During a *Match*, the *Drivers* must remain in their *Driver Station*, except when legally interacting with their *Robot*. *Drivers* also may not use any communication devices (e.g. radios) during the *Match*.

<G6> *Drivers* are prohibited from making intentional contact with any *Field Element* or *Robots* during a *Match*. Any intentional contact may result in a *Disqualification*. Accidental contact will not be penalized, unless the contact directly impacts the final outcome of the match. This type of accidental contact may result in a *Disqualification*.

<G7> *Hexballs* that leave the playing field will be promptly returned to the playing field at the location nearest the point at which they exited. If the nearest point to which it exited is in a *Goal* it will be returned to a spot that is adjacent to and not in the *Goal*.

<G8> Scores will be calculated for all *Matches* immediately after the *Match*, once all objects on the field come to rest. Any *Scoring*, *Parking*, or *Balancing* that takes place after the *Match* due to *Robots* continuing to drive after the *Match* will not count. Referees will not review any videos or pictures from the *Match*.

<G9> *Robots* may not intentionally detach parts during any *Match*, or leave mechanisms on the field. If an intentionally detached component or mechanism affects game play, the team shall be *Disqualified* at the referee's discretion. Multiple intentional infractions may result in *Disqualification* for the entire event.



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<G10> *Robots* may not grasp, grapple, or attach to any *Field Elements*. Strategies with mechanisms that react against multiple sides of a *Field Element* in an effort to latch onto said *Field Element* are prohibited. The intent of this rule is to prevent teams from both unintentionally damaging the field, and from anchoring themselves to the field. Minor violations of this rule that do not affect the match will result in a warning. Egregious (score affecting) offenses will result in a *Disqualification*. Teams that receive multiple warnings may also receive a *Disqualification* at the head referee's discretion.

<G11> *Robots* must be designed to permit easy removal of *Hexballs* from any grasping mechanism without requiring that the *Robot* have power after the *Match*.

<G12> Field tolerances may vary by as much as $\pm 1"$, unless otherwise specified, so teams must design *Robots* accordingly.

<G13> Replays are at the discretion of the event organizer and head referee, and will only be issued in the most extreme circumstances.

<G14> If a *Robot* goes completely out-of-bounds (outside the playing field), gets stuck, tips over, or otherwise is in need of assistance, the *Drivers* may retrieve and reset the robot. In the process they must move the *Robot* such that it is touching the field perimeter and not touching the *Bridge*. Before retrieving its *Robot*, the team must signal the referee by placing its VEX IQ Controller down such that it is not in the hands of either driver. Any *Hexballs* in possession of the *Robot* while being handled must be removed from the *Robot* and taken out of play for the remainder of the *Match*.

This rule is intended to help teams keep their robots functional during the match. It is intended so teams can fix damaged robots, or help get their robots "out of trouble." It is not intended for teams to use as part of a strategy to gain an advantage in a match. If referees see teams intentionally or repeatedly doing this, they may be disqualified from said match.

<G15> Adults may **assist** *Students* in urgent situations, however adults should **never** work on a *Robot* without *Students* on that *Team* being present and actively participating.

<G16> All team members, which includes all students and adults associated with a team, are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful and positive manner while participating in the VEX IQ Challenge. If team members are disrespectful or uncivil to staff, volunteers, or fellow teams at an event, the team may be *Disqualified* from their current or upcoming *Match*. Judges may also consider team conduct and ethics in determining awards.

In all aspects of the VEX IQ Challenge program, the students make the decisions and do the work, with adult mentorship. The VEX community prides itself on being a positive learning environment, where no one ever bullies, harasses, berates or places unnecessary stress upon students and/or event volunteers. Stressful and challenging situations are viewed as teachable moments to model positive behaviors and good sportsmanship.



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<G17> All rules in this manual are subject to changes, and not considered official until August 17th, 2016. We do not expect any major changes to take place; however we do reserve the right to make changes until August 17th, 2016. There will also be scheduled manual updates on June 15th, 2016 and April 3rd, 2017. Teams are strongly encouraged to review the VEX IQ forum for rule updates and clarifications: www.vexiqforum.com

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Robot Inspection



Description

Every *Robot* will be required to pass a full inspection before being cleared to participate in the Challenge. This inspection will ensure that all *Robot* rules and regulations are met. Initial inspections will typically take place during team registration/practice time. Every team should use the rules below as a guide to pre-inspect its *Robot* and ensure that it meets all requirements.

Definitions

Robot – An operator controlled vehicle designed and built by a VEX IQ Challenge team to perform specific tasks on the field. The robot may be constructed using only the VEX IQ platform parts and mechanical/structural components from the VEX Robotics by HEXBUG product line. No other parts will be allowed on the *Robot*. Prior to participating in matches, each *Robot* will be required to pass an inspection. Additional inspections may be required at the discretion of event personnel.

Inspection Rules

<R1> The team's *Robot* must pass inspection before being allowed to participate in any *Matches*. Noncompliance with any *Robot* design or construction rule may result in disqualification of the *Robot* at an event.

- a. If significant changes are made to a *Robot*, it must be re-inspected before it will be allowed to participate in a *Match*.
- b. *Teams* may be requested to submit to random spot-inspections by event personnel. Refusal to submit will result in *Disqualification*.
- c. Referees or inspectors may decide that a *Robot* is in violation of the rules. In this case, the team in violation will be *Disqualified* and the *Robot* will be barred from the playing field until it passes re-inspection.

<R2> Only one (1) robot will be allowed to participate per team in the VEX IQ Challenge. Though it is expected that teams will make changes to their robot at the event, a team is limited to only one (1) robot. The VEX IQ System is intended to be a mobile robotics design platform. As such, a VEX IQ Challenge robot, for the purposes of the VEX IQ Challenge, has the following subsystems:

Subsystem 1: Mobile robotic base including wheels, tracks, or any other mechanism that allows the robot to navigate the majority of the flat playing field surface. For a stationary robot, the robotic base without wheels would be considered Subsystem 1.

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Subsystem 2: Power and control system that includes a VEX IQ legal battery, a VEX IQ control system, and associated Smart Motors for the mobile robotic base.

Subsystem 3: Additional mechanisms (and associated Smart Motors) that allow manipulation of game objects or navigation of field obstacles.

Given the above definitions, a minimum robot for use in any VEX IQ Challenge event (including Skills Challenges) must consist of subsystem 1 and 2 above. Thus if you are swapping out an entire subsystem of either item 1 or 2, you have now created a second robot and are no longer legal.

- a. Teams may not participate with one robot, while a second is being modified or assembled.
- b. Teams may not switch back and forth between multiple robots during an event.

<R3> To participate in an official VEX IQ Challenge Event a team must first register on robotevents.com. Upon registering they will receive their VEX IQ Challenge Team Number and two (2) VEX IQ Challenge License Plates. Every robot should have their VEX IQ Challenge License Plates displayed on two opposing sides, with their VEX IQ Challenge Team Number clearly written on.

- a. The VEX IQ Challenge License Plates are considered a non-functional decoration, and cannot be used as a functional part of the robot.
- b. These number plates must fulfill all robot rules



Figure 8 – A VEX IQ Challenge License Plate with a VEX IQ Challenge Team Number written in.

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<R4> At the start of each Match, the *Robot* must satisfy the following constraints.

- a. Only contact the *Floor*.
- b. Fit within a 13" x 20" area, bounded by the *Starting Position*
- c. Be no taller than 15"

A *Robot* may not expand beyond its 13" x 20" starting area constraint at any time during the match. However, *Robots* are permitted to expand beyond their 15" starting height constraint at any time during the match.

Note: Teams must remain within the 13" x 20" area throughout the match; this includes the full range of motion by any appendages. An arm that extends out of these constraints while operating during the match would make the *Robot* illegal.

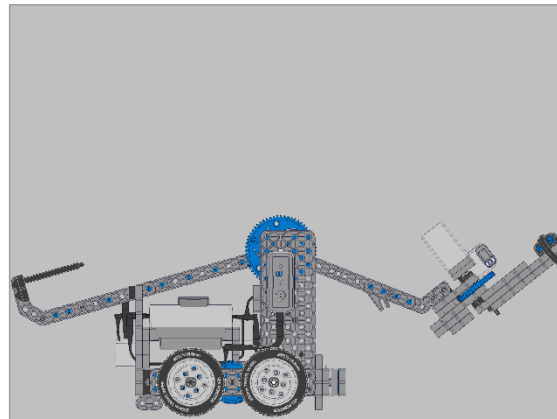
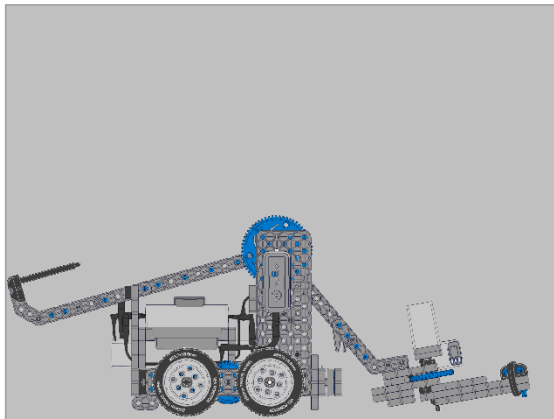


Figure 8 & 9 – A *Robot* which starts the match with the legal size constraints, but then as the arm rotates, becomes too large.

<R5> The starting configuration of the *Robot* at the beginning of a match must be the same as a *Robot* configuration inspected for compliance, and within the maximum allowed size.

- a. Teams using more than one *Robot* configuration at the beginning of matches must tell the inspector(s) and have the *Robot* inspected in its largest configuration(s).
- b. A team may NOT have its *Robot* inspected in one configuration and then place it at the start of a match in an uninspected configuration.



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<R6> Robots may be built ONLY from Official **Robot** Components from the VEX IQ product line, unless otherwise specifically noted within these rules.

- a. During inspections if there is a question about whether something is an official VEX IQ component, a team will be required to provide documentation to an inspector that proves the component's source. Such types of documentation include receipts, part numbers, or other printed documentation.
- b. Only the VEX IQ components specifically designed for use in Robot construction are allowed. Using additional components outside their typical purpose is against the intent of the rule (i.e. please don't try using VEX IQ apparel, team or event support materials, packaging, field elements or other non-robot products on a VEX IQ Challenge Robot).
- c. Products from the VEX EDR or VEXpro product line cannot be used for robot construction. Products from the VEX product line that are also cross listed as part of the VEX IQ product line are legal.
- d. Mechanical/structural components, aside from those excluded below, from the VEX Robotics by HEXBUG product line are legal for robot construction. However, electrical components from the VEX Robotics by HEXBUG product line are illegal for robot construction. The following mechanical and structural components from the VEX Robotics by HEXBUG product line are excluded
 - i. All rubber bands
- e. Official Robotics Components from the VEX IQ product line that have been discontinued are still legal for robot use. However teams must be aware of <R6a>.
- f. 3D printed versions of VEX IQ components are not legal for use.

<R7> Official VEX IQ products are ONLY available from VEX & Official VEX Resellers. To determine whether a product is "official" or not, consult www.vexiq.com

<R8> Robots are allowed to use the following additional "non-VEX IQ" components:

- a. Teams may add appropriate non-functional decorations provided that these do not affect the robot performance in any significant way or affect the outcome of the match. These decorations must be in the spirit of the event. Inspectors will have the final say in what is considered "nonfunctional".
 - i. Any decorations must be backed by legal materials that provide the same functionality, (i.e. if your robot has a giant decal that prevents *Game Objects* from falling out of the robot, the decal must be backed by VEX IQ material that also prevents the *Game Objects* from falling out.)
- b. Rubber bands that are identical in length and thickness to those included in the VEX IQ product line



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<R9> Additional VEX IQ products that are released during the challenge season are considered legal for use.

- a. Some “new” components may have certain restrictions placed on them upon their release. These restrictions will be documented in a Team Update. Team Updates will be posted to the “VEX IQ Challenge Crossover” home page in the Competition section of www.VEXrobotics.com

<R10> Robots must use ONLY one (1) VEX IQ Robot Brain.

- a. Robot brains, microcontrollers, or other electronic components that are part of the VEX Robotics by HEXBUG, VEX EDR, or VEXpro product line are not allowed.
- b. Robots must use one of the VEX IQ 900 MHz radio, VEX IQ 2.4 GHz radio, or VEX IQ Smart Radio in conjunction with their VEX IQ Robot Brain.
- c. The only legal method of driving the robot during *Teamwork* and *Robot Skills Matches* is the VEX IQ Controller.

<R11> Robots may use up to six (6) VEX IQ Smart Motors.

- a. Additional motors cannot be used on the robot (even ones that aren’t connected).

<R12> The only allowable sources of electrical power for a VEX IQ Challenge Robot is any single (1) VEX IQ Robot Battery or six AA batteries.

- a. Additional batteries cannot be used on the robot (even ones that aren’t connected).

<R13> Parts may NOT be modified.

- a. Examples of modifications include, but are not limited to, bending and cutting. In general, VEX IQ components should be considered sacred and not be modified in any way.

<R14> The following types of mechanisms and components are NOT allowed:

- a. Those that could potentially damage playing *Field Elements*, specifically the *Hexballs*.
- b. Those that could potentially damage other robots.
- c. Those that pose an unnecessary risk of entanglement.

<R15> A *Robot* is deemed successfully inspected when it has been recorded as “passed” by an Inspector and the inspection form has been signed by the Inspector and a student team member.

<R16> Teams must bring their robots to the field prepared to play. Teams must have their batteries charged before they place the robot on the field.

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The Event



Description

The VEX IQ Challenge will consist of:

- Teamwork Challenge
 - Each Teamwork Challenge Match consists of two teams, operating as an alliance, to score points. The Teamwork Challenge may include *Practice*, *Qualifying*, and *Finals Matches*. After the *Qualifying Matches*, teams will be ranked based on performance. Typically the top teams will then participate in the *Finals Matches* to determine the Teamwork Challenge champions. The number of teams participating in the *Finals Matches* is determined by the Event Partner.
- Robot Skills Challenge
 - In this challenge teams will compete in sixty (60) second long matches in an effort to score as many points as possible. These matches consist of *Driver Skills Matches*, which will be entirely driver controlled, and *Programming Skills Matches*, which will be autonomous (no VEX IQ controller) with limited human interaction. Each match will consist of only one Robot,

Awards will be given to top teams in each format. Awards will also be given for overall performance in the judged criteria. Please review the Awards Appendix for more details.

Definitions

Disqualification – A penalty applied to a team for a behavioral violation. When a team is disqualified in a *Match*, they receive zero (0) points.

Finals Match – A match used to determine the Teamwork Challenge champions.

Practice Match – An un-scored match used to provide time for teams to get acquainted with the official playing field.

Qualifying Match – A *Teamwork Match* used to determine the rankings.



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Teamwork Challenge

Teamwork Qualifying Matches

At the event, *Practice Matches* may be played from the team registration time until the team meeting begins. Every effort will be made to equalize practice time for all teams, but they may be conducted on a first-come, first-served basis. These matches are not scored, and will not affect team ranking.

Schedule

- The *Qualifying Match* schedule will be available prior to opening ceremonies on the day of the event. This schedule will indicate alliance partners and match pairings. For events with multiple fields, the schedule will also indicate on which field the match will take place.
- The *Qualifying Matches* will start immediately after opening ceremonies in accordance with the qualifying match schedule.
- Teams will be randomly assigned an alliance partner to collaborate in each *Qualifying Match*.
- All teams will be scored on the same number of *Qualifying Matches*.
- In some cases, a team will be asked to play in an additional *Qualifying Match*, but will not receive credit for playing this extra match.

Teamwork Challenge Rankings

- At the conclusion of each match, the score will be determined.
 - Each robot will receive the points scored for the Alliance Score
- For a *Qualifying Match*, if **no** member of a team is present in the driver station at the start of a match, that team is declared a “no show” and will receive zero (0) points. A “no show” is treated exactly the same as a *Disqualification*. The team’s alliance partner will receive all points scored in this Match.
- Each team will have the same number of *Qualifying Matches*
- Points earned for each team in each *Qualifying Match* are added to get the team’s total points
- One out of every four (4) *Qualifying Matches* will not count towards the rankings. If an event has between four (4) and seven (7) *Qualifying Matches* per team, then the lowest score for each team will not be counted. If an event has between eight (8) and eleven (11) rounds, then the two lowest scores for each team will not be counted. If an event has twelve (12) or more rounds, then the three lowest scores will not be counted.
- Teams are ranked by total points.
- Ties in ranking are broken by:
 - Removing the lowest score from each team’s total and comparing the new total score
 - If still tied, the next lowest score will be removed (on through all scores)
 - If still tied, teams will be sorted by a random electronic draw



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Teamwork Challenge Finals Matches

- At the conclusion of *Qualification Matches*, the top teams will advance to the *Finals Matches*.
- The number of *Finals Matches* will be determined by the event organizers.
- The first and second ranked teams form an alliance, third and fourth ranked teams form another alliance (and so on) for the *Finals Matches*.
- Starting with the lowest ranked alliance, each alliance participates in ONE Finals Match. After all the Finals matches are run, the highest score of those matches is the winning alliance. Second highest score finishes in second place, and so on. (If there is a tie, the higher ranked alliance, prior to the *Finals Matches*, shall be declared to finish higher)

Teamwork Challenge Rules

<T1> Referees have ultimate authority during the event, including all three challenges. **Their rulings are final.**

- a. The referees will not review any recorded replays.
- b. Referees will review the field at the end of each match and accurately record the game score. If there is a disagreement with the scoring, only the team drivers, not an adult, may share their questions or concerns with the referee. Once the field is cleared for the next team, the drivers can no longer dispute the match score.

<T2> The only people from a team permitted to be by the playing field are the two drivers, who are identified by their drive team badges. These badges are interchangeable, but not during a match.

<T3> During matches, two teams form an alliance that will play on the field.

<T4> There are no time outs in the *Qualifying Matches* or *Finals Matches*.

<T5> At many events, the playing field will be placed on the floor. Some event partners may choose to elevate the playing fields. At the 2017 VEX Robotics World Championship the platforms will be 18” high.



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Robot Skills Challenge

Robot Skills Challenge Rules

Please note that all rules from “The Game” section of the manual apply to Robot Skills, unless otherwise specified.

At the beginning of each *Skills Match*, the robot may be placed in either of the two *Starting Positions* on the field.

Robot Skills Challenge Scoring

All scoring is the same as outlined in “The Game” section of this manual.

- A *Hexball Scored* in the *Scoring Zone* of the same color is worth one (1) point.
- A *Hexball Scored* in a *Low Goal* of the same color is worth three (3) points.
- A *Hexball Scored* in an *Elevated Goal* of the same color is worth five (5) points.
- One *Robot Parked* on the *Bridge* is worth five (5) points.
- All *Robots Parked* on a *Balanced Bridge* is worth twenty-five (25) points.
 - In a *Skills Match* “All Robots” means the one *Robot* in the *Match*

Robot Skills Challenge Format

- The Robot Skills Challenge field is set up as described in “The Game” section of this manual.
- Teams will play *Skills Matches* on a “first come, first served” basis.
- Teams may participate in a number of *Skills Matches*, to be determined by the event organizers.
- There will be two drivers for a *Drivers Skills Match*. *Drivers* must switch their controller with between :35 and :25 remaining in the *Driver Skills Match*. If a team only has one *Driver*, that *Student* may only operate the *Robot* for a maximum of thirty-five (35) seconds
- There are two specific rules for *Programming Skills Matches*, which are listed below

Programming Skills Match Specific Rules

<PSC1> A team may handle their *Robot* as many times as they want during a *Programming Skills Match*.

- Upon handling the *Robot*, it must be immediately brought back to a legal starting position
- If the *Robot* is possessing any *Hexballs* when the *Robot* is being handled, these *Hexballs* will be removed from the playing field and can no longer be used
- If there are any *Hexballs* in the *Robot Starting Position* where the *Robot* is being placed, these *Hexballs* will be removed from the playing field and can no longer be used.



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<PSC2> Teams must bring their VEX IQ Controller to the field with them, although drivers start the robot by pressing a button on the brain or manually activating a sensor, and may not engage the robot with the VEX IQ Controller during the *Programming Skills Match*. The VEX IQ Controller must not be on during the *Programming Skills Match*.

Robot Skills Challenge Rankings

- For each *Skills Match* teams are awarded a score based on the above scoring rules.
- Teams will be ranked based on the sum of their highest *Programming Skills Match* score and *Driver Skills Match* score, with the team with the highest sum being declared the *Robot Skills Challenge Winner*
- In the case where two teams are tied for the highest score, the tie will be broken by looking at both teams' next highest *Programming Skills Match* score. If the teams remain tied, the tie will be broken by looking at both teams' next highest *Driver Skills Match* score. This process will repeat until the tie is broken
- If the tie cannot be broken (i.e. both teams have the exact same scores for each *Programming Skills Match* and *Driver Skills Match*), the next tie-breakers will be based on the following criteria in each team's highest scoring *Programming Skills Match*.
 - Number of points for a *Robot Parked* on a *Balanced* or unbalanced *Bridge*
 - Number of points for *Hexballs* in *Elevated Goals*
 - Number of points for *Hexballs* in *Low Goals*
- If the tie still cannot be broken, the same process in the step above will be applied to the teams' highest *Driver Skills Match*
- If the tie still isn't broken, events may choose to allow teams to have one more deciding match or both teams will be declared the winner